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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 016887/1045

Applicant: Shunsuke KATAHIRA
Title: IMAGE FORMING DEVICE
Serial No.: 09/909,860 ✓
Filed: July 23, 2001 ✓
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: 2622

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56 and 37 CFR §1.97

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any documents which is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is believed to be filed prior to the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits (first scenario). If that is not the case, such as in a second scenario in which a first Office Action on the merits has been mailed before the filing of the instant Information Disclosure Statement, then the PTO is authorized to obtain the necessary fee to have the instant IDS considered, from Foley & Lardner Deposit Account #19-0741.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

English abstracts are provided for documents A1-A2.

Applicant respectfully requests that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

2/27/02

Date

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| Form PTO-1449 (MODIFIED) | | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | | ATTY. DOCKET NO. 016887/1045 | | SERIAL NO. 09/909,860 | |
| <div style="text-align: center;"> INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION Date: February 27, 2002 (Use several sheets if necessary) </div> | | | | APPLICANT Shunsuke KATAHIRA | | | |
| | | | | FILING DATE July 23, 2001 | | GROUP ART UNIT 2622 | |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|--------------------|------|------|-------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| EXAMINER INITIAL | REF | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUB- CLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|--------------------|------------|---------|-------|---------------|-------------|----|
| | REF | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUB- CLASS | TRANSLATION | |
| | | | | | | | YES | NO |
| | A1 | 08046191 | 02/18/1994 | JAPAN | | | ABSTRACT | |
| | A2 | 10157921 | 06/16/1998 | JAPAN | | | ABSTRACT | |
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| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | |
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* EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include any copy of this form with next communication to applicant.